

HALP

“Home Automated Living Platform”



Project

Introduction:

These days, when you are unable to live independent in your own home, you'll go to an elderly home. With an ever increasing elderly population, the health care expenses are higher than ever and keep increasing. The need for a cheaper alternative system is evident.

Certain main points are important for ageing people to live longer independently. Research from H. van der Kloet suggests that there is one main concern why people consider going earlier to elderly homes: safety. There are many aspects to safety: self reliance, confidence in themselves, in door security and social security.

With the elderly population becoming more technically aware, the opportunity of using technology in their lives to prevent Health Care expenses is possible.

Target group: 55+, single independent living (in their own homes)

Team: 3 IT Honours Students and 2 Physical Therapy Honours Students

Aim:

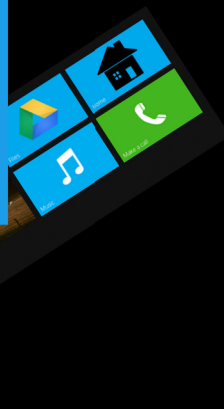
To aid single living elderly (55+) to live independently in their own homes with aid of technology.

Concept

The goal of HALP is to supply an open app platform in the house of its user, able to connect to almost all home automation sensors and devices, with a single interface available from almost all internet ready devices at next to no cost.

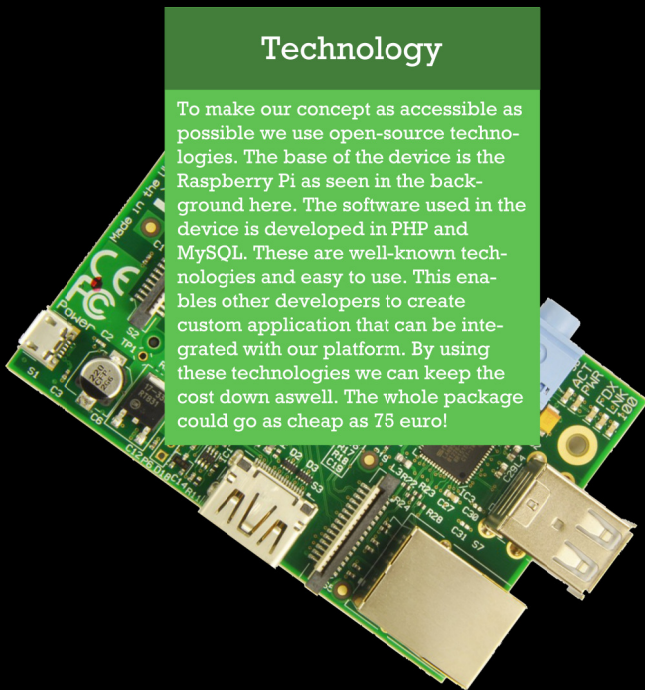
Considering the possible needs and wishes of our target audience we based the design philosophy on two keywords; Accessibility and Usability. As well as the keywords mentioned, our goal is to supply an interface that has the possibility to 'evolve' depending on the users and their future wishes.

For the future app developers HALP supplies an open platform, build on popular technologies and programming languages, to integrate their apps and an interface for home automation amalgamation.



Technology

To make our concept as accessible as possible we use open-source technologies. The base of the device is the Raspberry Pi as seen in the background here. The software used in the device is developed in PHP and MySQL. These are well-known technologies and easy to use. This enables other developers to create custom application that can be integrated with our platform. By using these technologies we can keep the cost down aswell. The whole package could go as cheap as 75 euro!



Why use HALP?

- It's accessible and usable:
 - vision problems: bigger buttons, different colours;
 - hearing aid;
 - hearing problems: it's written down;
 - tactile: bigger buttons;
 - memory problems: reminders;
 - social isolation: keeps connection to community, family and friends.
- It's cheap: 75 euro;
- Gives you a sense of security: self reliance, confidence in themselves, in door security and social security;
- It helps you to live longer independent your own home!



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